## FRENCH RIVER BASIN DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

LOWER MERINO POND DAM MA 00109

## PHASE I INSPECTION REPORT NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION PROGRAM

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY NEW ENGLAND DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS WALTHAM, MASS. 02154

OCTOBER 1978

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

Lower Merino Pond Dam is a stone wall-earth dam. The dam has a maximum height of 21 feet and is approximately 338 feet long including the spillway. It is considered to be in poor condition. It has been classified as a "high" hazard. An outflow test flood of 2,900 cfs (1/2 the PMF) will overtop the dam by about 2.3 feet.

# LOWER MERINO POND DAM MA 00109

FRENCH RIVER BASIN DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

PHASE I INSPECTION REPORT NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION PROGRAM

#### NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION PROGRAM

#### PHASE I INSPECTION REPORT

#### BRIEF ASSESSMENT

Identification No.: MA00109

Name of Dam: Lower Merino Pond

Town: Dudley

County and State: Worcester County, Massachusetts

Stream: Tributary of the French River

Date of Inspection: August 29, 1978

Lower Merino Pond Dam is a stone wall-earth dam which was originally built in about the 1850's. The dam has a maximum height of 21 feet and is approximately 338 feet long including the spillway. The spillway consists of a broad-crested weir and is constructed of masonry with a concrete cap and sidewalls. Normal discharge is over the weir, and along a natural channel to a culvert under Schofield Avenue.

The spillway, which is 33.7 feet long, includes remnants of a footbridge. Flashboards are rigidly mounted on the spillway. There are two intakes and one outlet at the dam. An intake and outlet are abandoned, while a second intake provides water for fire protection at the mills.

Due to its age, Lower Merino Pond Dam was neither designed nor constructed according to current approved state-of-the-art procedures. Based upon the visual inspection at the site, the limited engineering data, and little evidence of operational or maintenance procedures, it was concluded that there were deficiencies that must be corrected to assure the continued performance of this dam. Generally, Lower Merino Pond Dam is considered to be in poor condition. Because of the potential danger to lives and property downstream Lower Merino Pond Dam has been classified as a "high" hazard.

The principal areas of concern are: seepage in the stone masonry abutments at the spillway and in areas along the toe; abandoned, blocked but leaking outlet; fractures along the downstream masonry wall; erosion behind spillway side walls; deteriorated concrete at the spillway walls; apparent surface depressions over the abandoned outlet to the wheel house; thick vegetation along the crest of the dam; and seepage under the concrete weir cap.

Hydraulic analyses indicate that the spillway can discharge a flow of 260 cubic feet per second (cfs) with the water surface at elevation (El) 472.9, which is the lowest elevation on the crest of the dam. An outflow test flood of 2,900 cfs (one-half the probable maximum flood) will overtop the dam by about 2.3 feet. The spillway is inadequate since it can discharge only 9 percent of the test flood before the dam is overtopped. In the event of overtopping, complete failure of the dam could occur. Because of the potential for overtopping, it is recommended that a definite plan for surveillance and a warning system be developed for use during periods of unusually heavy rains and/or runoff. The warning system should be coordinated with other warning systems required at the upstream reservoirs in the drainage area.

It is recommended that the Owner employ a qualified consultant to evaluate the stability of the dam, conduct a more detailed hydrologic and hydraulic investigation, evaluate the seepage in the stone spill—way abutments and other areas, evaluate the fracturing of the downstream masonry block walls, investigate the source of leakage at the outlet, and provide a suitable outlet for lowering the pond. It is also recommended that the Owner repair the spillway sidewalls, erosion and sloughing of the crest, and the leakage at the outlet; remove the footbridge and flashboard support structure; provide riprap protection; and remove all trees from the crest of the dam. The Owner should also implement a systematic program of inspection and maintenance.

The recommendations and remedial measures described in Section 7 should be implemented by the Owner within a period of one year from receipt of this Phase I Inspection Report. An alternative to these

recommendations would be draining the pond and breaching or removing the dam.



Edward M. Greco, P.E. Project Manager Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.

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Approved by:

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Vice President

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This Phase I Inspection Report on Lower Merino Pond Dam has been reviewed by the undersigned Review Board members. In our opinion, the reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations are consistent with the Recommended Guidelines for Safety Inspection of Dams, and with good engineering judgment and practice and is hereby submitted for approval.

CHARLES G. TIERSCH, Chairman Chief, Foundation and Materials Branch Engineering Division

FRED J. RAVENS, Jr., Member Chief, Design Branch Engineering Division

SAUL C. COOPER, Member Chief, Water Control Branch Engineering Division

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED:

JOE B. FRYAR Chief, Engineering Division

#### PREFACE

This report is prepared under guidance contained in Recommended Guidelines for Safety Inspection of Dams, for a Phase I Investigation. Copies of these guidelines may be obtained from the Office of Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C. 20314. The purpose of a Phase I Investigation is to identify expeditiously those dams which may pose hazards to human life or property. The assessment of the general condition of the dam is based upon available data and visual inspections. Detailed investigation, and analyses involving topographic mapping, subsurface investigations, testing, and detailed computational evaluations are beyond the scope of a Phase I Investigation; however, the investigation is intended to identify any need for such studies.

In reviewing this report, it should be realized that the reported condition of the dam is based on observations of field conditions at the time of inspection along with data available to the inspection team. In cases where the reservoir was lowered or drained prior to inspection, such action, while improving the stability and safety of the dam, removes the normal load on the structure and may obscure certain conditions which might otherwise be detectable if inspected under the normal operating environment of the structure.

It is important to note that the condition of a dam depends on numerous and constantly changing internal and external conditions, and is evolutionary in nature. It would be incorrect to assume that the present condition of the dam will continue to represent the condition of the dam at some point in the future. Only through continued care and inspection can there be any chance that unsafe conditions be detected.

Phase I inspections are not intended to provide detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses. In accordance with the established Guidelines, the Spillway Test flood is based on the estimated "Probable Maximum Flood" for the region (greatest reasonably possible storm runoff), or fractions thereof. Because of the magnitude and rarity of such a storm event, a finding that a spillway will not pass the test flood should not be interpreted as necessarily posing a highly inadequate condition. The test flood provides a measure of relative spillway capacity and serves as an aide in determining the need for more detailed hydrologic and hydrualic studies, considering the size of the dam, its general condition and the downstream damage potential.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
BRIEF ASSESSMENT	
PREFACE	
OVERVIEW PHOTO	111
LOCATION MAP	iv
REPORT	
SECTION 1 - PROJECT INFORMATION	1
<pre>1.1 General 1.2 Description of Project 1.3 Pertinent Data</pre>	1 2 5
SECTION 2 - ENGINEERING DATA	9
<ul><li>2.1 General</li><li>2.2 Construction Records</li><li>2.3 Operation Records</li><li>2.4 Evaluation of Data</li></ul>	9 9 9
SECTION 3 - VISUAL INSPECTION	11
3.1 Findings 3.2 Evaluation	11 13
SECTION 4 - OPERATING PROCEDURES	14
4.1 Procedures 4.2 Maintenance of Dam 4.3 Maintenance of Operating	14 14
Facilities 4.4 Description of Any Warning	14
System in Effect 4.5 Evaluation	14 14
SECTION 5 - HYDRAULIC/HYDROLOGIC	15
5.1 Evaluation of Features	15

# TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

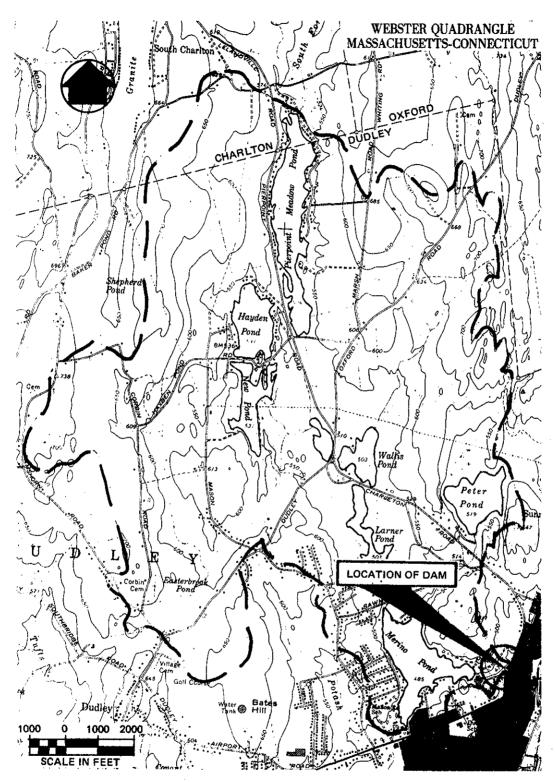
	Page
SECTION 6 - STRUCTURAL STABILITY	17
6.1 Evaluation of Structural Stability	17
SECTION 7 - ASSESSMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND REMEDIAL MEASURES	19
7.1 Dam Assessment 7.2 Recommendations 7.3 Remedial Measures 7.4 Alternatives	19 20 20 21
APPENDIXES	
APPENDIX A - PERIODIC INSPECTION CHECKLIST	
APPENDIX B - PLAN OF DAM AND PREVIOUS INSPECTION REPORTS	
APPENDIX C - PHOTOGRAPHS	
APPENDIX D - HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC COMPUTATIONS	
APPENDIX E - INFORMATION AS CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DAMS	

# OVERVIEW LOWER MERINO POND DAM DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS



VIEW FROM UPSTREAM OF DAM

Location and Direction of Photographs
Shown on Figure in Appendix B



LOCATION MAP - LOWER MERINO POND DAM

## NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION PROGRAM

#### PHASE I INSPECTION REPORT

LOWER MERINO POND

SECTION 1

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

#### 1.1 General

Authority. Public Law 92-367, August 8, 1972, a. authorized the Secretary of the Army, through the Corps of Engineers, to initiate a national program of dam inspection throughout the United States. The New England Division of the Corps of Engineers has been assigned the responsibility of supervising the inspection of dams within the New England Region. Metcalf & Eddy. Inc. has been retained by the New England Division to inspect and report on selected dams in the State of Massachusetts. Authorization and notice to proceed was issued to Metcalf & Eddy, Inc. under a letter of July 28, 1978, from Ralph T. Garver, Colonel, Corps of Engineers. Contract No. DACW 33-78-C-0306 has been assigned by the Corps of Engineers for this work.

#### b. Purpose:

- (1) Perform technical inspection and evaluation of non-Federal dams to identify conditions which threaten the public safety and thus permit correction in a timely manner by non-Federal interests.
- (2) Encourage and assist the States to initiate quickly effective dam safety programs for non-Federal dams.
- (3) Update, verify and complete the National Inventory of Dams.

#### 1.2 Description of Project

- a. Location. The dam is located in the Town of Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on an unnamed tributary of the French River. Lower Merino Pond is immediately downstream of Merino Pond (see Location Map).
- Description of Dam and Appurtenances. at Lower Merino Pond was apparently constructed during the mid-1800's adjacent to the Stevens Linen Mill. Previously water from the pond had been used to provide power to the mill. Currently, the water is used to provide fire protection. A plan and section of the dam is shown in Appendix B, Figure B-1. The dam consists of a dry stone masonry wall with earth fill. The stone wall has a slight outward batter and is a maximum of 21 feet high at the spillway. The stone wall, excluding the spillway section, is about 304 feet long and has two distinct horizontal bends in alignment. The dam abuts natural ground at the north end and the "old wheel house" at the southeastern The top of the earth fill, which is also end. the crest of the dam, varies from about El 473 to El 474 feet. The top width varies from 15 feet at the southeastern end to 22 feet to 31 feet along the remainder of the dam.

The spillway consists of a concrete-faced broad-crested weir. The spillway is 33.7 feet long. The stone wall face of the spillway is similar to that of the dam.

Concrete side walls approximately 3 feet high at the spillway retain the earth fill. The steel superstructure of an old foot bridge - rigidly supports removable flashboards, some of which were in place during the field investigation.

Water flowing over the spillway drops vertically to the streambed below. The streambed at the dam consists of a rock outcrop.

An earthen dike extends from the southeastern abutment of the dam and along the southern edge of the pond. The dike is approximately 345 feet long and about 3 feet high. The first 95 feet of dike, closest to the dam, consists of earth fill abutting a section of the mill building. The remaining section consists of earth fill having grassed downstream slopes. Several residences are immediately downstream of the dike.

None of the upstream slopes along the dike or dam have riprap protection.

Two intakes and one outlet have been constructed at the dam. An intake and outlet are abandoned while the second intake remains operative and provides water for fire protection at the mill according to the Owner. One of the abandoned intakes provided water to power the wheel in the wheelhouse (Intake A. Figure B-1). The intake has since been abandoned, partially removed and filled-in with The second intake, a drop inlet (Intake B, Figure B-1) is located along the dike near the mill buildings. According to the Owner. water from this intake is piped to a pumping station at the mill where it is used for fire protection. The outlet (Figure B-1), which is located near the north end of the dam, is the outlet for the pond and has been abandoned. The top of the outlet structure is visible beneath the water. The opening has apparently been blocked and there is no evidence of a gate or operating mechanism. The outlet is a 2-foot by 2-foot opening in the downstream wall.

A small diameter pipe is visible on the bottom of the pond connecting from Upper Merino Pond Dam to the plant. According to the owner it terminates within the wheel house and serves no purpose at this time.

c. Size Classification. Lower Merino Pond Dam is classified in the "small" size category since it has a maximum height of 21 feet and a maximum storage capacity of 85 acre-feet.

- d. Hazard Classification. Immediately downstream of the dam across Schofield Avenue are
  several buildings of the Stevens Linen
  Associates. A failure of the dam could pose
  a threat to human life in the mill buildings.
  Numerous residences and businesses are also
  located downstream of the mill. A power
  transmission line also crosses the stream
  downstream of the pond. Several residences
  are also located along the southern edge of
  the pond adjacent to the dike. Based on the
  above, the dam is placed in the "high" hazard
  category.
- e. Ownership. The dam is presently owned by the Stevens Linen Company, P. O. Box 220, Webster, Massachusetts. Mr. Robert Javery of Stevens Linen Company (617-943-0600) granted permission to enter the property and inspect the dam.
- f. Operator. The Stevens Linen Company operates the fire control intake and are the only operators of the dam.
- g. Purpose of the Dam. The dam at Lower Merino
  Pond was constructed to provide process water
  and power at the mill. According to the
  Owner it is now used to provide water for
  fire protection at the mill.
- h. Design and Construction History. There is no information available on the design or construction of the dam. Review of previous inspection reports and other written information available at the Worcester County Engineers Office helped formulate a brief construction history.

Information indicates that the dam was constructed sometime during the 1850's. Some inspection reports, dating back to 1926, point out conditions that required repair. In 1930, for instance, slight seepage was noted on the downstream wall and the "gate timber" required replacement.

Generally, the leaks that had been noted focused on the gate structures, presumably the two that are presently abandoned. In

1937, after the storm of March, 1936 some damage occurred to the masonry spillway crest and leaks around the gate were observed. Apparently by 1938 some repairs to the dam were completed. Subsequent inspection reports note that the condition of the dam was satisfactory. Between 1947 and 1950 new gates were apparently installed although slight leakage was noted. The flood of 1955 caused no damage that required repairs. Overtopping of the dike was reported by a local resident.

A diagram of the dam from a 1939 inspection report shows a trash rack and walkway built across the pond, presumably near the location of the concrete intake for fire protection. The walkway and trash rack no longer exist.

Based on 1947 and 1950 inspection reports, recommendations were made by the Worcester County Engineers office to increase the capacity of the spillway. However, these recommendations were apparently never initiated.

i. Normal Operating Procedure. There are no operating procedures at the dam. Flow over the spillway is uncontrolled. The only operating outlet is through the fire protection system.

#### 1.3 Pertinent Data

- a. Drainage Area. The drainage area for Lower Merino Pond is estimated to be 3,675 acres (5.74 square miles). The area includes the watersheds for: Pierpoint Meadow Pond, Hayden Pond, New Pond, Wallis Pond, Easterbrook Pond, Larner Pond, Peter Pond, Upper and Lower Merino Pond, as well as minor un-named ponds within the watershed.
- b. Discharge at the Dam Site. Uncontrolled discharge at the dam site flows over a 33.7-foot long weir and drops vertically to the streambed below and is then directed through a stone masonry arch beneath Schofield Avenue. The stream bed consists of exposed bedrock

near the dam. Flow has cut a steep channel where it abuts the mill. Discharge through the blocked but leaking 2-foot by 2-foot outlet in the downstream face of the dam eventually flows to the stream at the culvert under Schofield Avenue.

Hydraulic analyses indicate that the spillway can discharge an estimated 260 cfs with the water surface at El 472.9, which is the lowest point on the crest of the dam.

An inflow test flood of 3,300 cfs (one-half the probable maximum flood) adjusted for surcharge storage results in a maximum discharge of 2,900 cfs. This outflow will overtop the crest of the dam by about 2.3 feet.

- c. Elevation (feet above MSL (Mean Sea Level)).

  A benchmark was established at El 471.0 on the crest of the spillway. This elevation was estimated from a United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map.
  - (1) Top main dam: 472.9 to 474.5 Top dike: 474.1 to 474.8
  - (2) Test flood pool: 475.3.
  - (3) Design surcharge (original design): unknown
  - (4) Full flood control pool: N/A
  - (5) Recreation pool: 471.0 (without flash-boards)
  - (6) Spillway crest (ungated): 471.0 to 471.1
  - (7) Upstream portal invert diversion tunnel: N/A
  - (8) Streambed at spillway of dam: 453.4 (assumed water discharging over spill-way)
  - (9) Tailwater: N/A

#### d. Reservoir

- (1) Length of maximum pool: 1,000 feet
- (2) Length of recreation pool: 1,000 feet
- (3) Length of flood control pool: N/A

#### e. Storage (acre-feet)

- (1) Test flood surcharge: 21.5 at El 475.3
- (2) Top of dam: 85 at El 472.9
- (3) Flood control pool: N/A
- (4) Recreation pool: 75 (Approximate)
- (5) Spillway crest: 75

#### f. Reservoir Surface (acres)

- \*(1) Top dam: 5
- \*(2) Test flood pool: 5
  - (3) Flood-control pool: N/A
  - (4) Recreation pool: 5
  - (5) Spillway crest: 5

#### g. Dam

- (1) Type: stone wall earth
- (2) Length: 338 feet
- (3) Height: (maximum) 21 feet
- (4) Top width: 15 to 31 feet
- (5) Side slopes: Upstream, variable by erosion, approximately 1-1/2:1
  Downstream vertical (with slight batter)

<sup>\*</sup>Based on the assumption that the surface area will not significantly increase with changes in pond elevation from 471.0 to 475.3.

- (6) Zoning: Unknown
- (7) Impervious core: Unknown
- (8) Cutoff: Unknown
- (9) Grout curtain: Unknown

#### i. Spillway

- (1) Type: broad crest
- (2) Crest length: 33.7 feet
- (3) Crest elevation: 471.0 (assumed bench-mark)
- (4) Gates: None operable
- (5) Upstream channel: earthen slope
- (6) Downstream channel: Natural streambed, heavily vegetated
- j. Regulating Outlets. The only regulating outlet at this dam is the intake used to provide fire protection at the mill. The drop inlet-type intake was gated.

#### SECTION 2

#### ENGINEERING DATA

2.1 General. There are no drawings available for Lower Merino Pond Dam. Visual observations during inspection, review of previous inspection reports, and conversations with the Owner and with personnel from Town, State and County agencies provided the data for this evaluation.

We acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of personnel of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, Messrs. Willis Regan and Raymond Rochford, and personnel of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, Division of Waterways, Messrs. John J. Hannon and Joseph Iagallo.

Also, we acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of personnel from the Worcester County Engineer's Office, Messrs. John O'Toole, and Joseph Brazauskas.

Mr. Robert Javery granted permission to enter the property and inspect the dam.

- 2.2 <u>Construction Records</u>. There are no as-built drawings or construction records for the dam.
- 2.3 Operation Records. No operating records are available for the dam and no daily record is kept of the elevation of the pool or rainfall at the dam site.

#### 2.4 Evaluation

- a. Availability. Due to the age of this dam, there is limited engineering data available.
- b. Adequacy. The lack of indepth engineering data did not allow for a definitive review. Therefore the adequacy of this dam could not be assessed from the standpoint of reviewing design and construction data, but is based primarily on visual inspection, history of past performance and engineering judgment.

c. Validity. Comparison of available information with the field survey conducted during the Phase I inspection indicates that the information is valid.

#### SECTION 3

#### VISUAL INSPECTION

#### 3.1 Findings

- a. General. The Phase I Inspection of the dam at Lower Merino Pond was performed on August 29, 1978. A copy of the inspection check list is in Appendix A. Periodic inspections of this dam have been made by others since 1926. A partial listing of these inspections is in Appendix B. An inspection by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works was made in 1972, and a copy of that report is also included in Appendix B. In addition, early inspection reports were reviewed at the Worcester County Engineer's office.
- b. Dam. The dam is in poor condition. The crest is heavily overgrown with trees and brush. vertical stone masonry wall appeared in satisfactory condition although some vertical fractures were noted in the lower masonry The fractures are prevalent within the blocks. lower third of the dam and are of concern. smaller stone filling a void appeared crushed and many others are missing. The upstream slopes were eroded near the crest. One tree was observed growing within the face of the spillway abutment wall. Otherwise, the wall was free of vegetation. Several leaks were noted at the face of the wall and the locations are shown in Figure B-1 of Appendix B. A large seepage zone was noted at the northwest spillway abutment extending from the spillway about 5 feet near the top of the downstream wall to about 10 feet at the bottom. A very small seepage area was noted about 110 feet from the northwest spillway abutment at the lower part of the downstream wall. A small area in front of the toe of the downstream wall about 45 feet from the northwest spillway abutment appeared to be leaking. Fill over this area covered the toe of the wall. A seepage area was noted along the toe of the south spillway abutment and abutment to the mill building.

Appurtenant Structures. The concrete of the spillway weir and sidewalls is in fair condi-The most noticeable deficiency occurs at the sidewalls where the fill has been eroded from behind the walls on each side of the spillway. There, the concrete is badly spalled. Several cracks were evident in the concrete weir. The flashboards on the spillway leaked between the bottom of flashboard and spillway weir. The flashboards are rigidly supported by a footbridge superstruc-It did not appear to be an easy task to remove the flashboards during flood flows, nor did it appear that the boards themselves would fail during high overtopping flows. The downstream wall at the spillway leaked in several areas near the top, most noticeably between the concrete cap and top of the masonry blocks. The downstream channel was cluttered with large logs and other debris.

The intakes were previously described in Section 1.2.c. Intake A has been abandoned and filled, although some parts are still visible. Intake B appeared in good shape. It consisted of a concrete box about 5 feet by 7 feet in area. The inlet was provided with a trash rack to protect it from trash and the top of the box had a metal cover in good condition. The elevation of the inlet could not be determined. The outlet, also abandoned, has been blocked but leaks. No information is available on how the intake is blocked. About 4 inches of water was noted discharging from the box conduit opening at the downstream wall. The outlet structure is completely submerged as was not visible for inspection.

A submerged pipe was visible in the pond near the spillway. The Owner indicated the pipe was ungated but blocked and it terminated in the old wheelhouse. The Owner also stated that the pipe was leaking into the buildings.

d. Reservoir Area. Areas south of the pond and dam are heavily populated and consist of residences and sections of downtown Webster.

Areas north of the pond are sparsely populated and are generally above pond level. At

- least two residences and part of the mill are adjacent to the dike and dam and the Stevens. Linen Company Mill is immediately downstream.
- e. Downstream Channel. The discharge from the spillway follows a natural streambed which abuts a section of the mill. It passes under Schofield Avenue through a 14.5-foot wide by 5-foot high masonry arched culvert and eventually into the French River which passes through downtown Webster. The downstream area between the dam and Schofield Avenue slopes from El. 453 at the dam to El. 433 at the invert of the arched culvert. The distance is approximately 300 feet. The area is wooded near the dam and grassed with tall weeds near the roadway. A power line crosses the stream downstream of the pond.
- 3.2 Evaluation. The above findings indicate that the dam has several areas of distress that require immediate attention. It is evident that the dam is not maintained and that deterioration will continue unless action is taken. Recommended measures to improve the conditions are included in Section 7.

#### SECTION 4

#### OPERATING PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Procedures. There are no operating procedures at Lower Merino Pond Dam.
- 4.2 Maintenance of Dam. There is no maintenance program at the dam. However, the dam is visited frequently as the Steven's Linen Company is adjacent to the dam.
- 4.3 Maintenance of Operating Facilities. Two of the outlet structures are closed and have been abandoned. A third outlet is used to provide water for fire protection. Flow over the spillway is controlled only by flashboards.
- 4.4 Description of Any Warning System in Effect. There is no warning system in effect at the dam.
- Evaluation. Lower Merino Pond Dam is in poor condition and has been placed in the "high" hazard category because of the possible danger to life and property downstream and damage to a power line. For this reason, it is important that procedures for operation, maintenance, and emergencies be implemented as recommended in Section 7.

#### SECTION 5

#### HYDRAULIC/HYDROLOGIC

#### 5.1 Evaluation of Features

a. Design Data. The Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) rate was determined to be 1,150 cfs per square mile. This calculation is based on the average drainage area slope of 2.4 percent, the pondplus-swamp area to drainage area ratio of 13 percent, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' guide curves for Maximum Probable Flood Peak Flow Rates (dated December 1977). Applying one-half the PMF to the 5.74 square miles of drainage area results in a calculated peak flood flow of 3,300 cfs as the inflow test flood. By adjusting the inflow test flood for surcharge storage, the maximum discharge rate was established as 2,900 cfs (505 cfs per square mile), with a water surface at El 475.3.

Flow over the crest of the dam is predicted to be 2,050 cfs. Flow through the main spillway (assuming flashboards have been removed) would be 850 cfs. The maximum depth on the crest of the dam would be 2.3 feet with a discharge of 9.3 cfs per foot of width. Depth at critical flow would be at 1.4 feet with a velocity of 6.7 feet per second.

Hydraulic analyses indicate that the existing spillway can discharge 260 cfs with the water surface at El 472.9.

- b. Experience Data. Hydraulic records are not available for this dam, however, information supplied by a resident indicated that overflow occurred at the dike during the 1950's. The Owner indicated that the dam has not been overtopped during floods.
- Visual Observations. Discharge from Lower Merino Pond is over a broad crested weir spillway. The spillway has a concrete cap under which considerable flow was discharging. Although the concrete crest and sidewalls appeared sound, except as noted in Section 3,

it is not properly connected to the dam structure. A more detailed record of observation is included in Section 3, Visual Inspection.

d. Overtopping Potential. Overtopping of the dam by about 2.3 feet is expected under the outflow test flood of 2,900 cfs. In the event of overtopping, complete failure of the dam could occur.

Failure of the dam would produce a peak discharge of 9,100 cfs and a flood wave 8.0 feet high. The channel is too short between the dam and roadway and occupied structures to allow any channel attenuation of the initial surge wave. Discharge from the dam passes under Schofield Avenue via a 5-foot by 14.5-foot arched culvert.

#### SECTION 6

#### STRUCTURAL STABILITY

#### 6.1 Evaluation of Structural Stability

a. Visual Observations. The evaluation of the structural stability of the dam is based on the visual inspection conducted on August 29, 1978.

Based on the observations as discussed in Section 3, Visual Inspection, and on the evaluation of the hydraulic computations, the dam at Lower Merino Pond is considered to be a hazard. The condition of the dam is unsatisfactory.

It is recommended that a more detailed investigation be initiated immediately to evaluate the stability of the dam and the seepage along the face of the downstream wall and at the abandoned outlet. The severe leaking near the spillway is apparently more recent than 1972. The fractures in the masonry blocks should also be investigated immediately.

b. Design and Construction Data. Discussions with the Owner, County and State personnel indicate that there are no available plans, specifications, or computations on the design, construction, or repair of the dam. Information on the type, shear strength and permeability of the soil and/or rock materials is nonexistent.

Previous inspection reports indicate that sections of the spillway damaged in the March 1936 flood as well as leaks through the downstream wall were repaired. Subsequent reports indicated that the condition of the dam was satisfactory.

c. Operating Records. There is no evidence that any type of instrumentation had ever existed at Lower Merino Pond Dam. The performance of the spillway and dam under prior loading can only be inferred from physical evidence at the site.

- d. Post-construction Changes. In the past repairs have been made at the spillway and gates as indicated in this report and in past inspection reports.
- e. Seismic Stability. The dam is located in Seismic Zone No. 2 and in accordance with Phase I "Recommended Guidelines" does not warrant seismic analyses.

#### SECTION 7

## ASSESSMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

#### 7.1 Dam Assessment

Condition. Built about 1850, Lower Merino Pond a. Dam was neither designed nor constructed according to current approved state-of-the-art procedures. Based upon the visual inspection, limited engineering data, and little evidence of operation or maintenance, it is determined that various conditions must be corrected to assure the continued performance of this dam. Generally, the dam is considered to be in poor condition. The principal areas of concern are: seepage in the stone masonry abutments at the spillway and in areas along the toe; abandoned, blocked outlet conduit which leaks; fractures along the downstream masonry wall; washout behind spillway side walls; deteriorated concrete at the walls; seepage under the concrete weir; apparent surface depressions over the abandoned outlet to the wheel house; and thick vegetation along the crest of the dam.

Hydraulic analyses indicate that the existing spillway can discharge a flow of 260 cfs with the water surface of the pond at El 472.9, which is the low point on the dam. The spillway may be inadequate since it can discharge only 9 percent of the test flood before the dam is overtopped. An inflow test flood of 3,300 cfs will overtop the dam by 2.3 feet. A detailed hydraulic analysis of the dam and entire watershed including upstream dams would alter these results.

Adequacy of Information. The lack of indepth engineering data did not allow for a definitive review. Therefore the adequacy of this dam could not be assessed from the standpoint of reviewing design and construction data, but is based primarily on visual inspection, past performance history and engineering judgment.

- c. <u>Urgency</u>. The recommendations outlined below should be implemented by the Owner within one year after receipt of this Phase I Inspection Report.
- d. Need for Additional Investigation. Additional investigations to further assess the adequacy of the dam and spillway are outlined below in Section 7.2, Recommendations.
- 7.2 Recommendations. In view of the concerns over the continued performance of the dam and spill-way, it is recommended that the Owner employ a qualified consultant to:
  - a. evaluate the stability of the dam
  - b. conduct a more detailed hydrologic and hydraulic investigation of the site to determine the actual impact of the watershed and upstream dams on Lower Merino Pond Dam, and evaluate the need for increased spillway capacity.
  - c. investigate the cause of fracturing of the masonry blocks along the downstream wall
  - d. investigate the seepage at the dam and the erosion and sloughing along the crest.
  - e. investigate the source of leakage at the outlet and the adequacy of the seal.
  - f. determine and design a suitable outlet for lowering the pond.

The recommendations on repairs and maintenance procedures are outlined below under Section 7.3.

#### 7.3 Remedial Measures

- a. Operating and Maintenance Procedures. The dam and spillway are not adequately maintained. It is recommended that the Owner accomplish the following:
  - (1) Install an operable gated outlet in addition to the outlet for fire protection.
  - (2) Adequately seal or remove the leaking pipe leading to the wheel house.

- (3) Repair both the washout area behind the side walls and surface depression over the abandoned outlet to the wheel house.
- (4) Remove all trees and brush from the crest of the dam, and clear debris for the downstream spillway area.
- (5) Repair the leaking abandoned outlet at the northwest end of the dam.
- (6) Remove the footbridge structure and flash-boards.
- (7) Provide riprap protection on the upstream face of the dam.
- (8) Institute a definite plan for surveillance and a warning system during periods of unusually heavy rains and/or runoff. The warning system should be coordinated with one at the upstream reservoirs in the watershed, because flooding or failure of the upper dams will have a severe effect on Lower Merino Pond Dam.
- (9) Implement a systematic program of maintenance inspections. As a minimum, the inspection program should consist of a monthly inspection of the dam and appurtenances and be supplemented by additional inspections during and after severe storms. All repairs and maintenance should be undertaken in compliance with all applicable State regulations.
- (10) Technical inspections of this dam should be conducted annually.
- 7.4 Alternatives. An alternative to implementing the recommendations and remedial measures listed above would be to drain the pond and breach or remove the dam.

#### APPENDIX A

## PERIODIC INSPECTION CHECKLIST

#### PERIODIC INSPECTION

#### PARTY ORGANIZATION

PROJECT Lower Merino Pond		DATE August 29, 1978		
		TIME 8:00 A.M	2:30 P.M.	
		WEATHER Hazy and	Humid	
PARTY:		W.S. ELEV. 471* U  *Assumed ben  of spillway	chmark top	
1. R. Weber	6	L. Branagan	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
2. W. Diesl	7			
3. H. Lord	8			
4. D. Cole	9			
5. E. Greco				
PROJECT FEATURE		INSPECTED BY	REMARKS	
1. Dam/Embankment		Weber - Greco		
2. Spillway/Outlet Structures	· · · - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Weber - Branagan		
3				
4.				
5				
6				
7.				
8			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
9				
0.				

#### PERIODIC INSPECTION CHECK LIST

PROJECT Lower Merino Pond	DATE <u>August 29, 1978</u>
PROJECT FEATURE Dam	NAME Weber
DISCIPLINE <u>Geotechnical</u>	NAME Greco
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITIONS
DAM EMBANKMENT	
Crest Elevation	472.9 to 474.5 Heavy vegetation
Current Pool Elevation	471
Maximum Impoundment to Date	Unknown
Surface Cracks	None visible - crest irregular higher at upstream and
Pavement Condition	N/A
Movement or Settlement of Crest	irregular crest fill and/or erosion
Lateral Movement	None apparent
Vertical Alignment	Approximately horizontal
Horizontal Alignment	Curved
Condition at Abutment and at Concrete Structures	good at abutment of dam and nat. ground at spillway - erosion at side walls
Indications of Movement of Structural Items on Slopes	at abutment of bldg sloughing over old in-take channels
Trespassing on Slopes	Foot path
Sloughing or Erosion of Slopes or Abutments	Erosion of upstream earth fill No slope protection apparent
Rock Slope Protection - Riprap Failures	N/A
Unusual Movement or Cracking at or near Toes	Lower third of downstream vert. masonry wall, north of spillway shows
Unusual Embankment or Downstream Seepage	fractures Discharge through blocked outlet, seepage at north abutment to spillway
Piping or Boils	seepage as shown on plan None visible
Foundation Drainage Features	Unknown
Toe Drains	Unknown
Instrumentation System	None visible
	page <i>A-2</i> of <u>8</u>

PROJECT Lower Merino Pond	DATE August 29, 1978
PROJECT FEATURE Dike Embankment	NAME Weber
DISCIPLINE Geotechnical	NAME Greco
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITION
DIKE EMBANKMENT	
Crest Elevation	474.1 to 474.8
Current Pool Elevation	471
Maximum Impoundment to Date	Unknown
Surface Cracks	None visible
Pavement Condition	N/A
Movement or Settlement of Crest	None visible
Lateral Movement	None visible
Vertical Alignment	Approximately horizontal
Horizontal Alignment	Straight
Condition at Abutment and at Concrete Structures	Good
Indications of Movement of Structural Items on Slopes	N/A
Trespassing on Slopes	Residence at t <b>o</b> e of dike
Sloughing or Erosion of Slopes or Abutments	<b>⋠</b> Upstream erosion, no protection
Rock Slope Protection - Riprap Failures	wisible N/A
Unusual Movement or Cracking at or near Toes	None visible
Unusual Embankment or Downstream Seepage	None visible
Piping or Boils	None visible
Foundation Drainage Features	UNK
Toe Drains	UNK
Instrumentation System	UNK

PROJECT Lower Merino Pond	DATE August 29, 1978		
PROJECT FEATURE Spillway	NAME Weber		
DISCIPLINE Geotechnical	NAME_Branagan		
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITION		
OUTLET WORKS - SPILLWAY WEIR, APPROACH AND DISCHARGE CHANNELS			
a. Approach Channel	Gravel bottom		
General Condition			
Loose Rock Overhanging Channel	Cside walls  None visible		
Trees Overhanging Channel	No		
Floor of Approach Channel	Not visible		
b. Weir and Training Walls	Concrete walls - concrete weir		
General Condition of Concrete	Fair to poor - erosion behind wall, reveal cavitation, spalling		
Rust or Staining	of concrete surface, cavitation and erosion of weir		
Spalling	CNone Slight along edge at spillway		
Any Visible Reinforcing	No		
Any Seepage or Efflorescence	Seepage behind walls apparent where embankment eroded		
Drain Holes	None visible		
c. Discharge Channel			
General Condition	Fair - cluttered with debris		
Loose Rock Overhanging Channel	No		
Trees Overhanging Channel	Vegetation within sides of channel		
Floor of Channel	Cut to bedrock		
Other Obstructions	None		

PROJECT Lower Merino	DATE August 29, 1978			
PROJECT FEATURE	NAME Weber			
DISCIPLINE Geotechnical	NAME_Branagan			
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITION			
OUTLET WORKS - INTAKE CHANNEL AND INTAKE STRUCTURE	Intake A (Abandoned)			
a. Approach Channel	Inlet blocked			
Slope Conditions	N/A			
Bottom Conditions	N/A			
Rock Slides or Falls	N/A			
Log Boom	N/A			
Debris	Not visible			
Condition of Concrete Lining	Concrete training walls leading			
Drains or Weep Holes	to inlet N/A			
b. Intake Structure				
Condition of Concrete	Abandoned, inlet blocked			
Stop Logs and Slots	N/A			

PROJECT Lower Merino	DATE August 29, 19/8		
PROJECT FEATURE	NAME Weber		
DISCIPLINE Geotechnical	NAME Branagan		
	·		
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITION		
OUTLET WORKS - INTAKE CHANNEL AND INTAKE STRUCTURE	Intake B (Fire Protection)		
a. Approach Channel	Gravel bottom		
Slope Conditions .	Fair, gravel submerged,		
Bottom Conditions	Gravel, cobbles		
Rock Slides or Falls	N/A		
Log Boom	N/A		
Debris	Slight vegetation		
Condition of Concrete Lining	N/A		
Drains or Weep Holes	N/A		
b. Intake Structure	Drop inlet		
Condition of Concrete	Fair, slight cavitation at		
Stop Logs and Slots	water line and below Fair, but rusted		

PROJECT Lower Merino	DATE August 29, 1978
PROJECT FEATURE	NAME Weber
DISCIPLINE Geotechnical	NAME Branagan
ADD 1 DVAT WATER	GOVETTON
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITION
OUTLET WORKS - OUTLET STRUCTURE AND OUTLET CHANNEL	
General Condition of Concrete	Not visible
Rust or Staining	**
Spalling	••
Erosion or Cavitation	
Visible Reinforcing	
Any Seepage or Efflorescence	Water leaking into outlet, dis-
Condition at Joints	charge from a 2'x2' opening in downstream wall
Drain Holes	
Channel	
Loose Rock or Trees Over- hanging Channel	₹
Condition of Discharge Channel	Vegetation covering channel

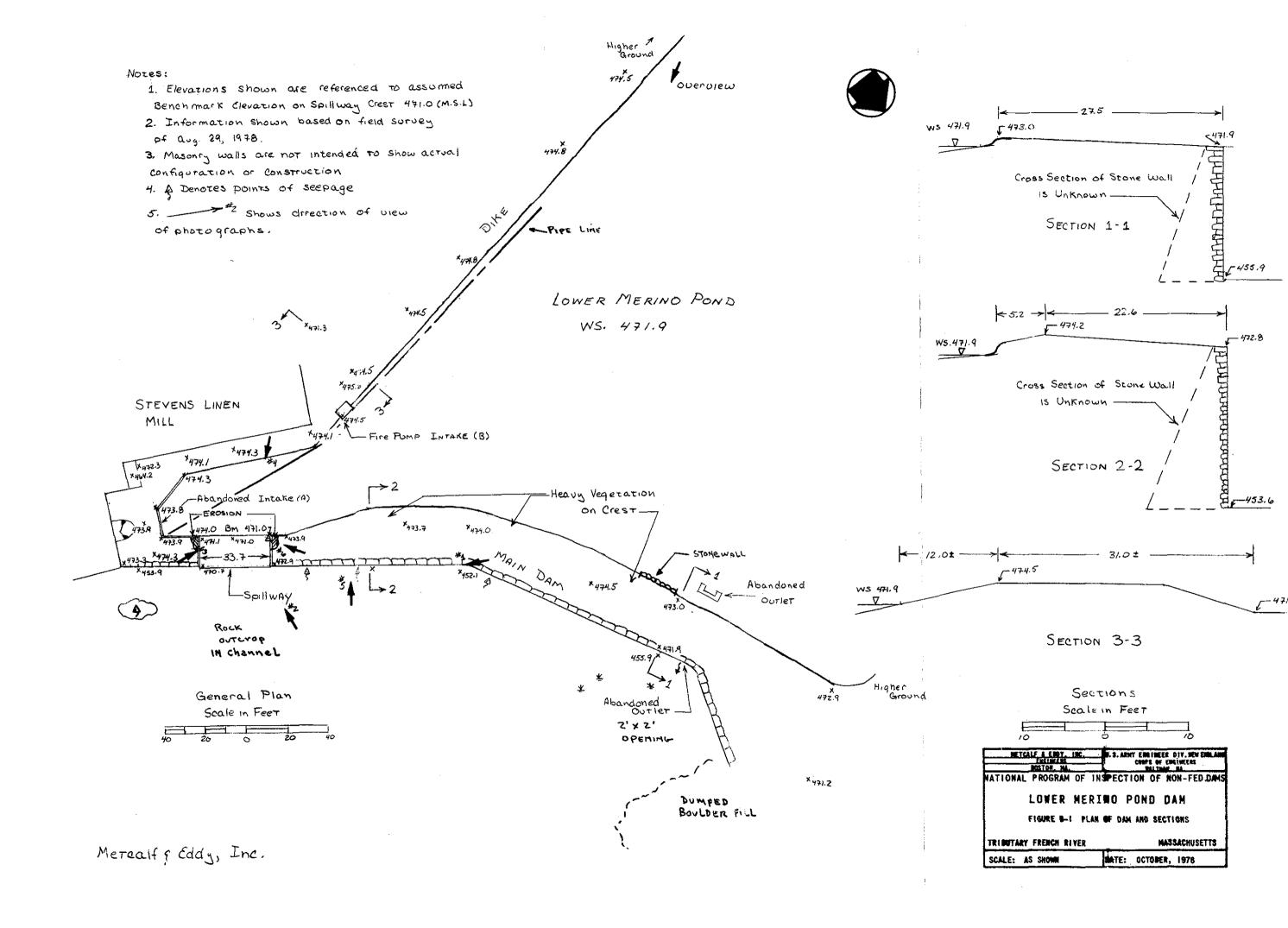
PROJECT Lower Merino Pond	DATE August 29, 1978		
PROJECT FEATURE	NAME Weber		
DISCIPLINE <u>Geotechnical</u>	NAME Branagan		
AREA EVALUATED	CONDITION		
OUTLET WORKS - SERVICE BRIDGE			
a. Super Structure			
Bearings	N/A		
Anchor Bolts			
Bridge Seat			
Longitudinal Members	Steel flat irons		
Under Side of Deck			
Secondary Bracing			
Deck	Missing		
Drainage System			
Railings			
Expansion Joints			
Paint			
b. Abutment and Piers	, 		
General Condition of Concrete			
Alignment of Abutment			
Approach to Bridge			
Condition of Seat and Backwall			

Note: Walkway missing - super structure poor condition five bays

### APPENDIX B

### PLANS OF DAM AND PREVIOUS INSPECTION REPORTS

	Page
Figure B-1, Plan of Dam and Sections	B-1
Previous Inspections (Partial Listing)	B-2
Inspection by Massachusetts Department of Public Works, dated January 10, 1972	B <b>-</b> 3



	TILL POND PLAN NO. Floor DAM NO. 12 06
LOCATION Webster- 1 st pond below M	erino Pond. C. C. DOCKET NO.
DESCRIPTION OF DAM	DESCRIPTION OF RESERVOIR & WATERSHED
Type 18:1 dry wall - Earth - riprap.El.100.  Length Height  Thickness top  "bottom  Downstream Slope Upstream  Length of Spillway Fl. 96.5  Depth = 3.5  Length of Spillway Fl. 96.5  Size of Gates  Waste 2 × 2 opening. El. 78.0  Location of Gates  Location of Gates  Location of Gates  Waste 2 × 2 opening.  Flashboards used  Location of Gates  Width Flashboards or Gates  Dam designed by	Name of Main Stream  " " any other Streams Length of Watershed Width " Zoh + 2-15" 50 H  Is Watershed Cultivated Percent in Forests Steepness of Slope Kind of Soil No. of Acres in Watershed " " " Reservoir Length of Reservoir Wioth " "  Max Flow Cu. Ft. per Sec.
" constructed by Year constructed	Head or Flashboards-Low Water
GENERAL REMARKS	" " "-High " 1938 Flood Z' OUEL CLEST. GENERAL REMARKS
Owned by Stevens Linen Associates Inspected Jan. 7, 1925 L. Marden 9  " Mar. 24, 1930 7 " "  " Dec. 11, 1931 + " "  July 27, 1932 - " " Crawfor Ian. 13, 1937 - " " Crawfor Spin. Inspect: Mar. 23, 1939 - E. S. Grover "Spin. Inspect: Mar. 23, 1939 - K. M. Finlayson . Inspect: Nov. 29, 1951 - LHS.	Inspected: March 20, 1936 - Finlay son & Vasielin.  Dec. 6:38 - Crawford says O.K.  Inspected: 12-11-40 - W.O.L.  12-30-41- M.F. Hunt  d + Healy " 12-40-42 - J.A. Herholz

### PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS (PARTIAL LISTING)

COPY OF INSPECTION CARD ON FILE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DISTRICT OFFICE, WORCESTER.

Control of the Contro	والراب المصورين الأنام مستنف
	M
INSPECTION REPORT & DATA FOR DAMS	Dam No. 14-06
Owner: STEVENS LINEN ASSOCIATES	Town: Dubley Stream: BRook
His Address: MILL ST. DUDLEY Function of Dam: MILL POND	Pond: Lower MARINO PIND Date: 1/10/72
	By:
Location & Access: WEBSTER IST POND BELLW.	CONDITION RATING Structural: 6000
USGS Quad. Webster Lat. 42°02'55" Long. 71°53'28" Drain. Ar.: 443 Sq. Mi.; Ponds: ac.: Res. Cdam: 20.0	Hydraulic: 55 X5
Character of D.A.:	PRIORITY: SHOOLD CHECK
Estimated	WASHOUT FREQUENTLY
Discharge * Capacity:	
General Description of Dam and Discharge Control:	1/6: 1 DRY WALL - FAPTH
PIPRAD SPILLWAY LEN = 33' - WASTE &	ATE 2'X2
- NUMEROUS MEDIUM LEAKS AT BASE OF T - CRUSH TO 18" TREES GROWING ON TOP P	DAM. NO APPARENT DANGER E DAM, ONE & MAPLE
GROWING OUT OF FACE OF NEUTMENT WA	SPER A-A SAMENOVIA
DRY STONE MASONRY BB B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B	18:24 H Ter 2'1
DAM,	J J J
100 BOOMERSTE	222
100	
120'1 120'1	▼ Ⅱ
The second secon	2 2 22
EARTH FILL ST FLOW GATE	B-B SPILLWAY SIDE VIEW
	3702 772 0
Remarks and Recommendations:	
WASHOUT BEHIND WESTERLY WALL	* 1300
AT SPILLWAY, SHOULD BE WATCHED,	14'= -> FLASH BOARDS
1.5' WIDE 2's	22" H'G
3.0 DEEP	
1/200	
Date By Comment	15 mar 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
1/10/22 27	
	•
	Tram No. 14-06
	Dam No. 14-06
	•

# APPENDIX C PHOTOGRAPHS



NO. 1 DOWNSTREAM STONE MASONRY WALL



NO. 2 LEAKAGE BENEATH SPILLWAY CREST



NO. 3 SPILLWAY CREST LOOKING UPSTREAM



NO. 4 PIPE IN SPILLWAY CHANNEL



NO. 5 FRACTURES IN DOWNSTREAM STONE MASONRY WALL



NO. 6 EROSION BEHIND SPILLWAY SIDEWALL

### APPENDIX D

### HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC COMPUTATIONS

All Paris Clare Fil Dame
bject Nat Review of Non Fed. Dams Acct. No. 6036 Page of 5  bject Worcester Mass. Area Comptd. By LEE Date 9/19/78
bject Worcester Mass. Area Comptd. By LEE Date 9/19/78 tail LOWER MERINO POND DAM Chid. By RW Date 9/22/79
I) Test Flood, looyear storm & Storage Functions
1 - Total Drainage Area - 5.74 mi
2- Ponds & Swamps = ,34 +.07+.12+.01 = 0.54 mi Ponds
=,13+,04 +.02 = 0.19 · Swamps.
70 Ponds & Swamps = 0.73 = 13%
3- 1.34% for 4.69 mi; 5.3% for 0.39mi} Say Ave Slope = 2.4%
4-Using C. of E. Curves for Peak Flow Ruter & above guide values the Peak Flow Rate was estimated to be closen to Flat & Costal than Rolling, and taken at 1150 c.f.s./mi
Due to low dan height use 1/2 MPF
5- Test Flood Inflow = = (1150) 5.74 = 3300 cfs.
6-Storage
A one foot rise increases storage as follows:
Lower Merino - 5 acre feet
Upper Merino - 77 acre fect Both ponds have similar discharge characteristics of total storage effect of 82 ac. It /ft is more characteristic
7- Storage Functions are based on Pour = Qm[1- Sout ]
Sout = Storage Vol. in Reservoir related to final Port in terms of inches of rain over the drainage area.
5(in Inches) = 12 D ( 1/3 ) = 0.27 D 3 R=6hr rain of storm.
D = Storage Depth (above spillway) on reservoir, in feet.  * Use Combined Aven of Upper & Lower Merino - Similar Spilli-nochaund
8 - Storage Functions: (FTE) ; D= O@ Elev. 471.0
$F_{TF} = 3300 - 347 S = 3300 - 94 D$
en de la companya de

.

Project Nat. Review of Non Fed. Dams	Acct. No. 6036	Page 2 of 5
Subject Worcesfer Mass Area	Comptd. By LEB	Date 9/19/78
Detail LOWER MERINO POND DAM	CK'd. By RW	Date 9/22/23

## I Dam Discharge Operating Curves

A- Spillway (Assume flash board struct removed)

Width = 33.7', Use 33' for side contractions [Ref. ViTiChow "Open Cham. Hydn.", pp 360.362]

Q = CH", C = 3.27 + H, Pond El. = Crest El. + H + h,

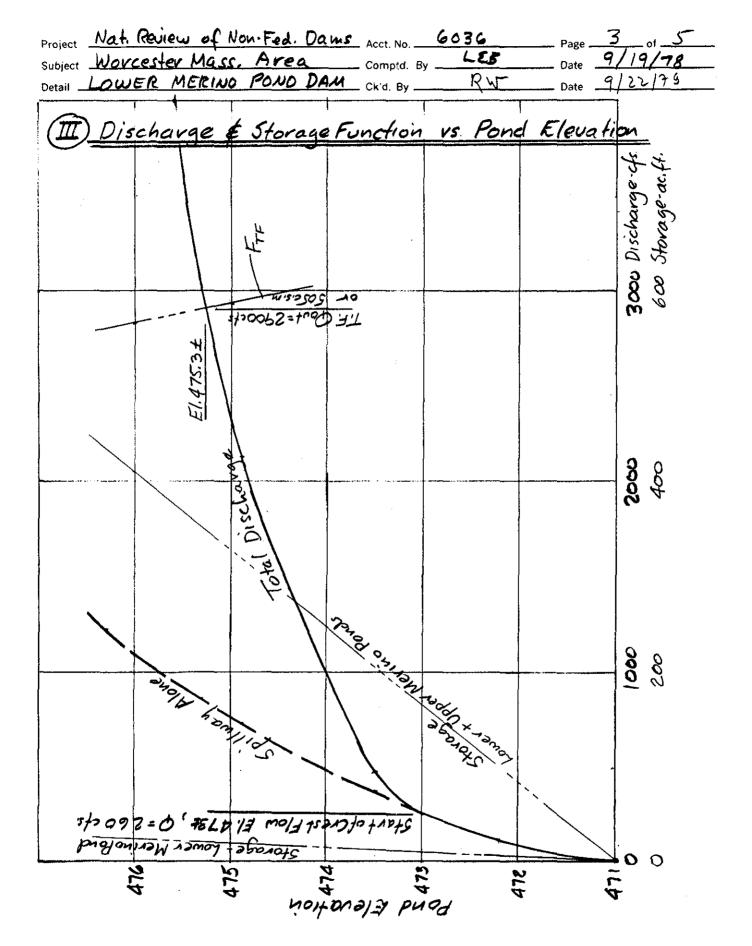
Take: h = 3', Crest El. 471.0

<u> </u>	С	9	hr	$\varphi$	Pond El.
1	3.60	3.60	0.20	119	472.2
2	3.93	11.12	0.48	367	473.5
3	4,27	22.19	0.85	732	474.9
4	4.60	36,8	1.31	1214	476.3
5	4,93	55.10	1.89	1818	477,9
6	5.27	77.45	2,59	2556	479.6
3.5	4.44	29.07	1.07	959	475.6

B- Crest Flow Crest Levels: 110'@ 473, 220'@ 474, 200'@ 474.5 (South Side Dife)

Use q = 2.67 H" [ [ Ref. V.T.C. "Op.Ch. Hydn." pg 53]

Pondel,	110 @473	220'@474	200' @ 474.5	Tot. Crest Q	Tot. O
473.5	100			100	467
474,9	770	500	130	1400	2132
476.3	1760	2050	1290	5100	6314
475.6	1230	1190	620	3040	4000



Project	Nat. Review	of Non Fe	d. Dams	Acct No.	6036	Page	4 01	5
	Worceste	r Mass	Area	. Comotd. Bv	LEB	Date _	9/19/2	رم
	LOWER ME			Ck'd Bv —	RW	Date _	9/22/	7-3



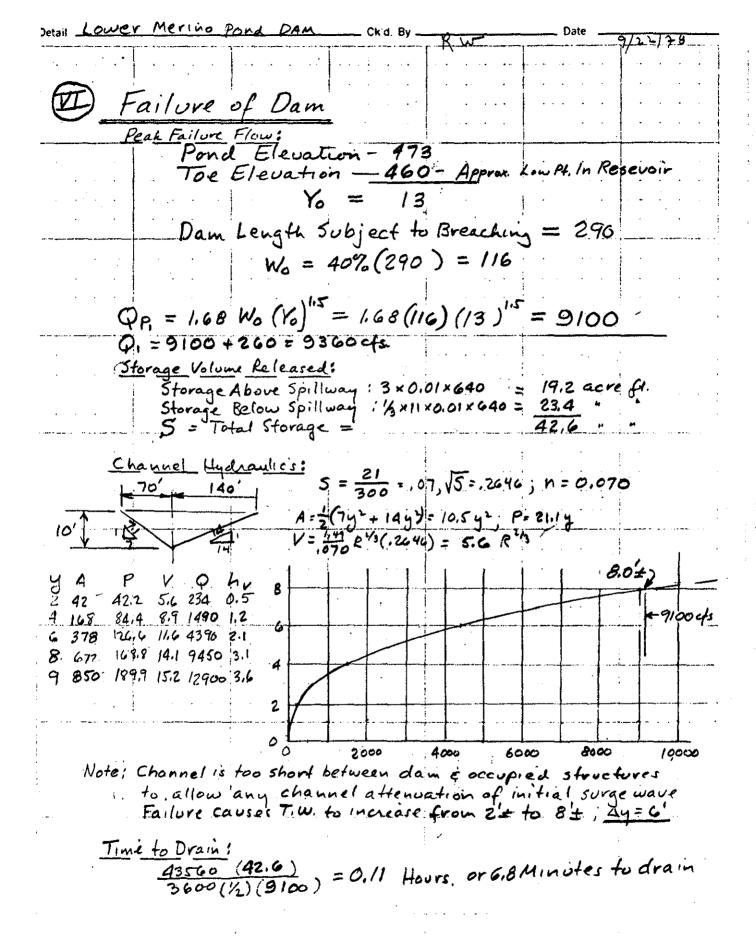
A- Test Flood

Pond Elev. 475.3  
Lowest Crest 473  

$$H = \frac{2.3}{2.3}$$
;  $g = 2.67(2.3)^{1.5} = 9.3 \text{ cfs/fs.}$   
As Critical Flow  
 $f_c = \left(\frac{9.3}{7}\right)^{1/3} = 1.39^{1/3}$ ;  $V_c = 6.7 \text{ fp.}$ 

Drawdown Rate

No operational method to draw down the pond is known.



### APPENDIX E

INFORMATION AS CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL INVENTORY OF DAMS